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Commission on Narcotic Drugs
Fifty-seventh session
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Item 9 of the provisional agenda*
Implementation of the Political Declaration and Plan of Action on International Cooperation towards an Integrated and Balanced Strategy to Counter the World Drug Problem: follow-up to the high-level review by the Commission on Narcotic Drugs, in view of the special session of the General Assembly on the world drug problem to be held in 2016

Greece: ** **draft resolution**

Education and training on drug use disorders

The Commission on Narcotic Drugs,

Recalling article 38 of the Single Convention on Narcotic Drugs of 1961 as amended by the 1972 Protocol,[1] according to which parties to the Convention are to take all practicable measures for the prevention of abuse of drugs and for the early identification, treatment, education, after-care, rehabilitation and social reintegration of the persons involved,

Recalling also the recommendation of the International Narcotics Control Board for the development of more effective practices to reduce illicit drug demand, focusing on education, prevention, treatment and rehabilitation,

Recognizing the urgent need to give full effect to article 20 of the Convention on Psychotropic Substances of 1971, which, among other things, calls for better training and education of those people who work in the area of drug dependence to gain an understanding of the problems of abuse of psychotropic substances and of its prevention,

* E/CN.7/2014/1.
** On behalf of the States Members of the United Nations that are members of the European Union.
[1] United Nations, *Treaty Series*, vol. 976, No. 14152.

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Recalling its resolution 48/7, entitled "Competencies required to address drug abuse", in which it recognized that human resources is an important element in countering the devastating impact of drug abuse,

Recognizing the major impact on public health and the social and economic well-being of individuals and society at large, of dealing with drug use disorders as preventable and treatable medical conditions, and noting the absence of corresponding minimum standards for training on treating drug dependence,

Taking into account that integration of cross-functional training in the treatment of dependence is not always given appropriate consideration in the official training curricula for the main disciplines,

Stressing that evidence-based training and education improves success rates in prevention and treatment programmes,

Taking into consideration the Declaration on the Guiding Principles of Drug Demand Reduction,[2] adopted by the General Assembly at its twentieth special session, according to which States should place appropriate emphasis on training policymakers, programme planners and practitioners in all aspects of the design, execution and evaluation of demand reduction strategies and programmes,

Bearing in mind that successful prevention and treatment requires valid methods, various approaches and evaluation and that the availability of competent and skilled staff and professional competence requires research-based education and training,

1. *Invites* Member States to develop, within the frame of national legal possibilities, adequate educational and training programmes, based on international standards and best practices and covering formal and professional educational levels, in order to increase and strengthen professional identity and enhance clinical competence in the treatment of addiction;

2. *Highlights* the importance of building up the capacity of competent trainers to deliver training for professionals who work in the field of drug dependence;

3. *Requests* that educational and training programmes in the treatment of drug dependence should be tailored by the generally acknowledged state of scientific evidence, international standards and best practices, while taking into consideration that such programmes should adequately correspond to the unique needs of specialized groups;

4. *Emphasizes* that sufficient attention should be paid to the quality and availability of training in the treatment of drug dependence across a wide array of the spectrum covering prevention, treatment and social reintegration and the need, where appropriate, to develop and enhance effective, scientific-based mechanisms for interdisciplinary interchange of information, inter alia, among health and law enforcement professionals and, where appropriate, civil society;

5. *Recommends* that training and educational programmes in the treatment of drug dependence should be subject to regular evaluation and quality control wherever possible.

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[2] General Assembly resolution S-20/3, annex.